

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the telephone interview held January 12, 2004 between the Examiner and Mr. Treitler (one of Applicant's undersigned attorneys).

Amended claims 1-9 remain in this application.

Claims 3-9 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 3 has been rewritten herein in independent form, and amended claims 4-9 depend ultimately from amended claim 3. Accordingly, Applicant submits that amended claims 3-9 are therefore in condition for allowance.

Applicants submit herewith, a replacement sheet for sheet 1, which now includes the feature of "further...decimated by a decimation factor of E," for Fig. 1. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to the drawings is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Reich (U.S. Patent No. 4,827,515).

Amended independent claim 1 now recites in part "said PLL-circuit receives the sampling rate decimated stereo-sum signal ($m_s(t)$) as input signal." (Emphasis added).

As acknowledged by the Examiner in the office action and during the January 12 interview, Reich does not disclose the above mentioned feature of claim 1. Figure 1 of Reich appears to show a stereo-sum signal ss outputted from a low pass filter b5 and inputted, not to a PLL circuit as in claim 1, but instead to a decoder not shown (see, for example, lines 40-43 of col. 3). Accordingly, Applicant submits that claim 1 and claim 2 dependent therefrom are distinguishable from Reich as applied.

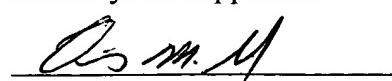
It is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. An early notice to this effect is respectfully solicited.

Please charge any fees incurred by reason of this response to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,

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